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exemplary in their devotion to duty as they understood it. Their routine work was quite as absorbing as that of their students and they had neither time nor strength to originate new methods or new courses for their students. Their devotion and unselfishness were a constant inspiration to their nurses which in many instances continues to this day.

They finally broke away from traditions to form nursing organizations, which marked the dawn of a new progress whose light has continued to shine steadily, showing the way, until today schools for nurses are what they are, and all nurses may be excused for having pride in them, at the same time that they are impelled to respect the past and have faith in the future.

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## OUR JUNIOR COLLEGE PLAYLET

BY DIXIE L. DAVIS

*Kansas City, Missouri*

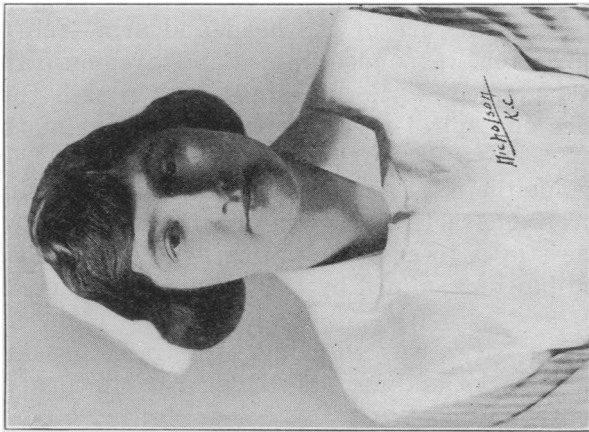
**D**EAR Erstwhile Probationers Everywhere: The members of the Probation and Junior classes (why not "Freshmen" instead of Probationers, I wonder?) from all the hospitals in Kansas City, Missouri, have just completed a most delightful and highly instructive term at Junior College, Kansas City, and it has occurred to me that others who have just set forth on their journey toward the coveted R.N. might be interested in our preliminary steps.

The courses at Junior College consisted of theoretical and practical work in Anatomy, Chemistry, Bacteriology, Drugs and Solutions, Dietetics, History of Nursing and Practical Nursing. But it is of our "playlet" or demonstration in Practical Nursing given in the auditorium at Junior College that I want to tell you. Heretofore, the supervisors of the various hospitals have watched us, as individuals, give temperature sponges, make beds with box corners, etc. This year we wanted something different, so at our instructor's suggestion we gave a little play outlining a day in the hospital; each hospital was to have 15 minutes and each group of nurses to wear their own uniform.

Mercy Hospital and Christian Church Hospital opened: voices were heard at morning prayer, then the Head Nurse appeared and listened to the night report and assigned daily duties. Four nurses took the part of patients,—one a "mental" patient who was constantly interrupting the routine; one as a pre-operative, scared (not wholly simulated) and failing to see the necessity for the administration of



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Participants in the Junior College Playlet: 1. Probation uniform of Bethany Hospital. 2. Student nurse uniform, Research Hospital. 3. Graduate nurse uniform, St. Luke's Hospital.

a hypodermic. A post-operative, up on back rest; and a convalescent up in a chair, completed the cases represented.

Each scene called for the presence of one or two internes or doctors, so preceding the play, each hospital had conducted a temporary tailoring establishment and had outfitted two of their nurses as internes!

The second scene showed Missouri Valley, Wilcrest, Trinity Lutheran (Swedish) Hospital nurses in charge. Christian's pre-operative case came back after an appendectomy; another patient—a tonsillectomy, who was as large as the nurse was small, insisted "I want my arms out from under the cover" and "I gotta have a drink of water." The actual demonstrations were making the ether bed and taking the operatives from the cart to the bed,—this latter being accomplished with remarkable ease, expedition, and no exposure of the patient.

The emergency case—a fracture of the head and arm—fell to General Hospital. The "doctor" responded immediately, removed the temporary bandages and applied sterile dressings with a skill that bespoke hours of practice on "spiral reverse" and "recurrent of the head."

St. Luke's nurses made the most of the well known exasperating visitor! In fact, she was so characteristically upsetting, it was necessary to apply turpentine stupes to ease the patient. A new patient was admitted, heart and lungs examined by the internes, and special orders left for diet.

Bethany gave evening care; washed hands and face, brushed teeth, combed hair, rubbed backs, and gave all the small attentions so essential for a good night's rest.

Research Hospital had a fitting climax,—just when the ward was full of visitors, the fire alarm sounded. The nurses efficiently and expeditiously covered the patients, rolling the sheets closely about them, and carried them from the ward.

"In the Footsteps of Florence Nightingale," a fifteen-minute film, was shown and "The End" of the picture was also the end of our happy days at Junior College.